

CHRB NEWS & REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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FOUNDATION & INDUSTRY A WINNING COMBINATION

By Mike Marten
Editor News & Review

Tough love. That's the best way to put it. Compassion, concern, understanding, and a sincere desire to help. Yes, all of that. But at the same time, anyone with a substance abuse problem who walks through the door of the Winners Foundation is also going to encounter hard truths.

It doesn't matter if you talk to outgoing executive director Don Murray, his replacement, Bob Fletcher, or any of the caseworkers located at racetracks throughout California. They all know the score. They've been there. They overcame their own personal demons



DON MURRAY

and now stand ready to help others who are truly committed to helping themselves.

The Winners Foundation is a major success story comprised of hundreds or perhaps thousands of individual success stories: Each racetrack worker, each family member, each life that the Winners Foundation has helped turn around is a testimonial to this success.

It all began modestly enough back in 1985 when Louis Rowan, a prominent horseman and founding director of the Oak Tree Racing Association, realized there were backstretch workers with drinking problems who were not

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Like every year before it, 2003 will have its share of challenges and opportunities for the California horse-racing industry.

Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW) sprinted to an excellent start with handle exceeding \$180 million the first year, and now we need to build on that foundation. This can be accomplished by exposing television viewers to more horse racing.

The CHRB is encouraging ADW providers, especially XpressBet, to increase their television programming. They assure us they are doing their best to access major regional markets. We will continue pressing them to make this happen as quickly as possible.

The Breeders' Cup will return to California on October 25 during the Oak Tree meet at Santa Anita. The CHRB already is working with Breeders' Cup personnel on licensing and insurance matters, and we will effectively deal with other issues as they arise.

Security for the Breeders' Cup will be our primary concern. Our investigative personnel will work closely with the racetrack and other law enforcement agencies to provide the highest level of security for the championship day.

We should take a moment to look back and express our appreciation to retired jockeys Chris McCarron and Eddie Delahoussaye and to the retiring executive director of the Winners Foundation, Don Murray.

They all handled themselves with class and professionalism, and are representative of what horse racing is all about. They touched many lives, and each left an indelible mark. I personally want to thank them for their efforts and their inspiration to me and many other participants in this great sport who admire them. We will continue moving forward in 2003, but our task will be more difficult without them.

Roy C. Wood, Jr.
Roy C. Wood, Jr.



IN THE GOLDEN STATE

PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE PARI-MUTUEL SYSTEM

Recent events have brought the pari-mutuel wagering system more sharply into focus throughout North America. The staff of the California Horse Racing Board reports on the security of the California system and ongoing efforts to protect the betting public.

A basic cornerstone of the racetrack experience is knowing that the game is fair. The California Horse Racing Board exists to regulate the horse-racing industry and provide that level of confidence. This involves licensing all of the participants in the racing industry, testing the horses for any illegal drugs, and monitoring the pari-mutuel department to ensure that the odds and payouts are accurate and untainted.

Pari-mutuel operations throughout the country have been under the microscope since the October 26, 2002, running of the Breeders' Cup at Arlington Park, due to the well-publicized manipulation of the Pick Six pool by a high-level employee of the totalizator company handling the transactions and his accomplices.

In California, the CHRB staff has been closely monitoring the Pick Six for well over a year at the behest of Chairman Roger Licht. Using sampling techniques, various winning Pick Six tickets in California have been reviewed. Numerous winning tickets from out-of-state locations also have been reviewed by working with regulators in other jurisdictions who provided details of winning tickets purchased through their tote systems. In all cases, nothing was noted that led the CHRB staff to believe that any manipulation of those wagers had taken place (including the unusual pattern used October 26). This type of scrutiny has been increased and will continue by CHRB staff and all pari-mutuel departments in California.

In the aftermath of the Breeders' Cup Pick Six manipulation, all three tote companies operating in North America promised to develop a software upgrade to fix the weakness exploited by the Autotote insider. That software was installed at California racetracks in December and has been operating smoothly since installation.

Before the upgrade, pools for multiple-race wagers involving four or more races were subject to manipulation by a

well-placed insider because of the limited amount of information that was transmitted to host tracks in the early stages of the wager. Outside locations in the vast simulcast wagering network could not transmit the details of each and every wager to the host track at the moment the first leg of the wager commenced because the immense volume of information would overwhelm any system. Instead, only the pool totals were transmitted at the start of the first race of the multiple-race wager. The all-important details came later – in the case of the Pick Six, immediately after the first five races had been run. This left a four-race window open for a knowledgeable insider to alter the details on individual tickets before that information was transmitted to the host track.

The software upgrade changes all of that. Now each tote system in the network searches through its bets after each leg of the wager and immediately provides the host track with a

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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

21 – CHRB monthly meeting in Arcadia.

MARCH

27 – CHRB monthly meeting in San Mateo.

APRIL

**2 – Bay Meadows meet opens in San Mateo.
23 – Hollywood Park meet opens in Inglewood.
24 – CHRB monthly meeting in Inglewood.**

THE EQUINE PRESCRIPTION

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHRB
EQUINE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



DR. RON JENSEN

As the West Nile Virus (WNV) continues its westward movement across North America, it appears inevitable that horses in California will be infected with the disease sometime in the future – perhaps as early as this year, 2003.

Last year, 14,717 equine cases were reported in 40 states, compared to only 720 cases in 2001. The hardest hit states were in the middle of the country with Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and Texas each reporting more than 1,000 cases. While no equine cases have as yet been reported in California, two horses were diagnosed with the disease in nearby Washington. And one human case of the disease was diagnosed in Los Angeles.

California appears to be well prepared for the arrival of WNV. State officials from several agencies and universities have in place an extensive monitoring system that routinely monitors trapped mosquitoes and water pools for the presence of disease-carrying mosquitoes and mosquito larva. Flocks of sentinel chickens are placed throughout the state to serve as early warning signals of the disease. Dead birds are checked for the disease. Blood-testing services are available for suspected horse and human cases.

For the latest WNV information, horsemen are invited to attend a free seminar March 9 at Santa Anita Park arranged by the California thoroughbred industry in conjunction with the University of California at Davis' Center for Equine Health (CEH). A panel of experts will discuss the spread of the disease and how best to deal with it. Dr. Gregory Ferraro, director of CEH, said horsemen will learn many things they can do to help prevent WNV from infecting their horses.

POST-MORTEM PROGRAM

The California Post-Mortem Program is now in its 13th year. Initiated by the CHRB in partnership with the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratories at UC Davis and the California horse-racing industry, this joint effort subjects every horse that dies at a California racetrack or ap-

proved training center to a thorough post-mortem examination in an attempt to better understand racing and training injuries and illnesses of the horse.

One project within the post-mortem program is an ongoing study on horseshoe and shoeing characteristics within thoroughbred racing in California. Researchers collected data for two years through November of 2002. This involved observations of the shoeing characteristics of 40,000 thoroughbred starters in California. Researchers are now reviewing these characteristics and evaluating them in relationship to the frequency and intensity of the horse's recorded works and races.

When completed, the results will be made available for horsemen to evaluate and use in making informed decisions concerning their horses.

Other current projects in the post-mortem program include a study of the incidence of stress fractures in proximal sesamoid and third metacarpal and third metatarsal (canon) bones. Previous studies have demonstrated the role of stress fractures in the complete fractures of the humerus and pelvic bones. Work also continues on the development of a computer model of the forelimb of the horse and on the development of an instrumented horseshoe.

UNIFORM MEDICATION RULES

The National Racing Medication and Testing Consortium continues to work on developing uniform medication rules and uniform drug testing guidelines to recommend to racing jurisdictions in the United States.

The consortium is now incorporated as a 501-(C)-(3) corporation, and officers and directors will be chosen at a February meeting. Nearly \$700,000 has been pledged to fund the research necessary in developing the guidelines. Request-for-research proposals soon will be sent to research institutions.





JOHN REAGAN

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Winner's Circle Award recognizes excellence among CHRB employees. News & Review editor Mike Marten interviewed the latest recipient, John Reagan.

When you're confused about the takeout and want to know where all the money goes, who ya gonna call?

John Reagan.

Or if your dog eats part of your winning ticket, who can help you sort things out?

Uh-huh.

John Reagan is the go-to guy at the California Horse Racing Board for just about anything to do with pari-mutuel wagering – the totalizator system, handle, revenue distribution, Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW)...it's a long list.

He's the one we all go to when we're in a panic. He knows what buttons to push to get the right answers. They might not be the answers we want to hear, but like it or not, the information he provides always is accurate.

Reagan not only read the book, he wrote it. There are about 100 regulations in the CHRB rulebook relating to pari-mutuel wagering that have his imprint on them. He jokingly refers to the complex Horse Racing Law as the "John Reagan Full-Employment Act."

Reagan is about as indispensable as any person could be in an organization. That's one reason why his colleagues at the Board named him the winner of the year's Winner's Circle Award, which recognizes the special contributions of staff members in service to the public and to the California horse-racing industry.

It is hardly surprising that Reagan would receive an award for public service, given the altruistic way he started out in government more than 23 years ago. He had graduated from Humboldt State with a degree in math and had served a few years in the Air Force, and at the time he was working as an auditor for Price Waterhouse in Sacramento.

"I heard a speech by the California State Auditor General, Tom Hayes, whose personal mission was to make California fiscally responsible," explained Reagan. "Mr. Hayes was a charismatic individual, and he attracted energetic people to his cause –

what you might call young lions. I was one of them.

Horse Racing's Gain

Reagan worked two years with the Office of the Auditor General. One of his assignments was a lengthy audit of the California Horse Racing Board, where he met Len Foote, the Board's chief executive.

"At the time the CHRB had no internal auditing process, no recognized system in place," said Reagan. "All of the pari-mutuel audits that the law required were performed by an independent, outside auditing firm. Len wanted to establish a position within the Board. He needed someone obviously with an understanding of auditing who would know which doors to knock on and which questions to ask. I agreed to establish the position.

"After reading through all of the rules and regs and digesting the Horse Racing Law, I started going to all of the racetracks to learn the tote systems and meet the key players – the people in the pari-mutuel departments, the tote rooms, and the money rooms.

"At the time (January of 1983), horse racing in California was nothing like it is today. It was much smaller and far less complicated. There were only a handful of go-to personnel in those departments I mentioned. Telecommunications was minimal. There was no simulcasting, no commingling of pools, little or no out-of-state wagering. When you wanted to bet Bay Meadows, you had to go to Bay Meadows. When it came to betting the Triple Crown, we made our own pools.

"The racetracks and other facilities were underutilized. When racing moved further along the circuit, nobody remained at the dark meet. They didn't open for simulcast wagering. Those places were dark and cold.

"Things began changing in 1985 when off-site wagering began in Northern California at a few sites – Golden Gate Fields, Bay Meadows,

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BE OUR GUEST...



The California Horse Racing Board believes the best way to regulate an industry is to be fully informed. The CHRB regularly solicits input from the public and the horse-racing industry, and this guest editorial page is one more forum for that purpose.

This guest editorial was submitted by Joe Naiman, a reporter with the Fallbrook/Bonsall Village News who covers horse racing at Del Mar.

While gambling has become an important part of the horse-racing industry, the need to separate the sport of horse racing from the gambling aspects is essential.

This is not based on a need to appease those with moral views opposed to gambling, but rather on a need to appeal to those who do not gamble. Since fans under 18 are not allowed to gamble, the failure to separate horse racing from gambling will limit the sport's appeal among those under 18. Those youngsters will likely grow up following other sports, without giving horse racing much thought.

Personally, I'm not much of a gambler, and to me horse racing has always been a sport rather than a gambling enterprise, but not everyone shares my opinion. Three years ago a documentary series on the 20th Century's top 100 athletes drew controversy when Secretariat was listed. I was nine when Secretariat won the Triple Crown. He was one of my heroes. To me, he was a top athlete.

When I started writing for the Fallbrook-Bonsall Village News, my coverage included horses training at San Luis Rey Downs. When I made my first trip to Del Mar, I encountered some very helpful people in the press box. I now consider horse racing to be one of my strong sports.

Yes, horse racing is a sport. After all, my stories run in the sports section of the Village News, not in the financial section. I am not opposed to gambling as long as the races are honest and nobody loses money they need for essentials. However, I try to write stories for non-gamblers – stories that a young person would want to read.

There are some things I've discovered along the way that allow me to separate gambling from the sport. Perhaps others will find them helpful in catering to the sports fan rather than simply to bettors.

ODDS JUST ANOTHER STAT

Odds mean something if you bet on a horse. They also mean something if a longshot wins because such an upset is an impressive feat, so odds deserve to be part of that story. But usually odds have nothing to do with the race itself. Therefore, most of the time when I write about a win-

ner from San Luis Rey Downs, I don't even include the odds. The winning time, length of the race, the margin of victory, and the way the horse won are all legitimate parts of the story. There has to be a special reason for me to include the odds in my report.

The longtime emphasis around the racetrack has been on the first three finishers, or in wagering terms, the win, place, and show horses. But a reporter isn't limited to writing about the first three finishers. Remember, the owners of the fourth- and fifth-place horses get a percentage of the purse, too, and sometimes this can be substantial. When Until Sundown finished fifth in the Pacific Classic, he earned \$20,000. Any horse from San Luis Rey Downs that earns part of a purse becomes part of my story.

BETWEEN RACES

Many horseraces last approximately two minutes, some even less. With post times generally set about 30 minutes apart, that leaves something like 28 minutes between races. From the gambling perspective, this break allows time for people to collect on their winning wagers, then reinvest in the next race. Others bet on live (simulcast) races being run at other tracks.

But just look around and you'll see that everyone isn't locked into the betting syndrome. Some people venture down to the paddock to see the horses getting ready for the next race. Others watch the paddock activities on the closed-circuit television system. In other words, there are plenty of people at the racetrack who want to actually see the horses and learn more about racing. Some of these things make interesting stories. Racing executives need to pay more attention to the non-betting fans. They need to make the time between races more interesting for those who are there for the sport rather than for the betting.

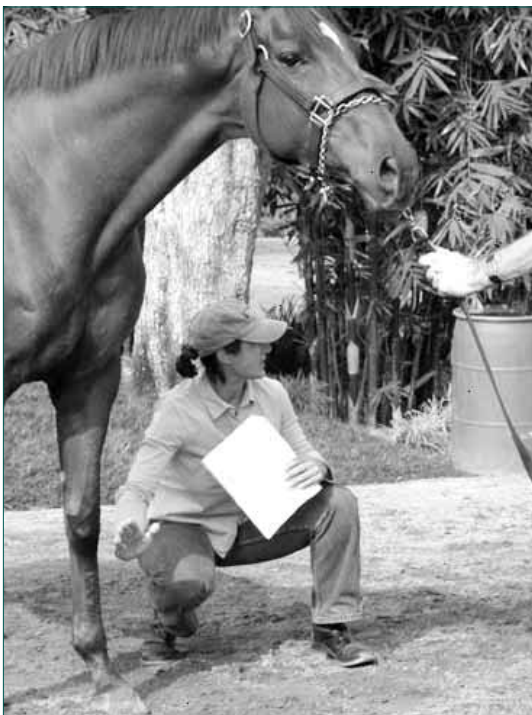
I do not desire to drive gamblers from the track. After all, gambling is an essential part of the industry. But my goal is to bring those who do not gamble to the sport. If we can separate the sport from gambling, we can increase its popularity and make it more interesting for everyone.

TOC Workshops Are Increasingly

By Tracy Gantz
TOC Deputy Director, South

Nico Nierenberg won his biggest race as an owner when California-bred Adminniestrator captured the \$500,000 Sunshine Millions Turf at Santa Anita on Jan-

uary 25, and it all began with a free workshop conducted by the Thoroughbred Owners of California. Nierenberg attended a seminar in 2000 at Del Mar, where he met trainer Patrick Gallagher. When he was ready to make the jump to ownership, Nierenberg contacted Gallagher, who now trains Adminniestrator for him.



Popular With Owners and Fans

TOC conducts several free workshops throughout the year at both Northern and Southern California race-tracks. Two of the most popular are the Conformation Clinics and the Horse Course for New Owners. Trainers and others volunteer their time to speak to owners, prospective owners, and fans.

Trainers Sandy Shulman, John Sadler, and Matt Chew welcomed nearly 70 attendees at a January 18 workshop, held at Santa Anita's Clocker's Corner and at the trainers' barns in the stable area. They explained their daily routines and answered a host of questions. Shulman (lower right photo) brought out several of his horses, fielded questions, and showed the group the actual stall where Seabiscuit lived more than 60 years ago.

Prior to the barn visits, owners Bob Houston and Eddie Tannenbaum (lower left photo, Houston on left) discussed such aspects of ownership as choosing a trainer, buying horses, and tax considerations.

"In choosing a trainer, you have to think about what you want to accomplish," Houston said. "It's important that you and your trainer have similar goals."

Tannenbaum's advice included urging people to buy California-breds because of the lucrative bonus money available in purses. "If you are considering two horses and they appear to be of equal ability, take the Cal-bred," Tannenbaum said.

TOC's Conformation Clinics also draw large crowds, including more than 60 who attended October 19 at Santa Anita (facing page, top photo). They visited the barns of Gallagher, Carla Gaines, Alexis Barba, and Howard Zucker. The trainers illustrated good and bad

conformation traits by using horses in their care.

Gaines explained to her group the things she looks for in a runner (facing page, right photo). "Conformation is a complex subject," she said. "Certainly, we all look for a horse to have good overall balance. But certain conformation faults can lead to injuries. Offset knees are one of the things I especially dislike because it puts too much pressure on the knee joint."

Barba spoke to her group about lower-limb conformation as well (facing page, left photo). She said she watches for such things as long pasterns, which can lead to soft-tissue injuries. Because those injuries take so long to heal, they can be even more trouble than fractures, Barba said.

TOC's other workshops include Modern Veterinary Medicine and Your Racehorse and the Business of Racehorse Ownership. TOC is the California's official organization serving new, veteran, and future Thoroughbred owners. One of its major goals is to provide ongoing educational opportunities for current and prospective owners.



receiving all of the assistance they needed. Rowan and Oak Tree placed a small trailer in the stable area at Santa Anita Park and began holding 12-step meetings.

That's how the Winners Foundation was born. It grew from there. Organizers began helping people with drug problems. They made contacts with treatment centers and began referring racetrack workers seeking assistance with any substance abuse problem. They obtained funds from other racing associations and industry groups, which allowed them to expand their scope and services. And they began working closely – in a constructive manner for the benefit of all concerned – with the racetrack stewards and investigators with the California Horse Racing Board.

Today everyone in the California horse-racing industry has immediate access to the Winners Foundation, which has a representative on the grounds of every racetrack in the state. In addition to its longstanding assistance with drugs and alcohol abuse, the Winners Foundation helps people deal with anger, loneliness, and depression. They help with divorce and financial difficulties. They are involved in suicide prevention and helping families cope in its aftermath. And they are recognizing along with everyone else the increasing problem of gambling addiction.

The Winners Foundation is still headquartered in a trailer at Santa Anita, albeit a much larger and modernized one – large enough to host 12-step meetings with private rooms for counseling and other services. The organization does not offer any actual treatment programs itself, other than the healing that results from showing interest in the problems of others and helping them in any way possible. The Foundation refers about 15 percent of its clients to treatment centers each year and pays for their recovery program.

The success of the Winners Foundation is spreading beyond the boundaries of California. Similar organizations and services are appearing in other racing jurisdictions. Racing is helping its own. And the Winners Foundation continues leading the way.

MURRAY ARRIVED IN 1991

Many people deserve accolades for this success, beginning with the late Rowan, as well as Herman Smith, the Oak Tree director who helped found the organization, and Gino Roncelli, the horseman who to this day still serves on the Foundation's board as president. The list is long, and not everyone can be mentioned, but somewhere near the top of the list the name of Don Murray figures prominently.

Murray joined the Winners Foundation in 1991 as its program director, then in 1993 he took over as executive director. Under the direction of the Foundation's board, Murray was in charge of day-to-day operations until his recent retire-

ment, when he turned the reins over to Bob Fletcher. Most of the organization's growth and its tremendous rise in stature occurred over the last decade under Murray's direction.

“Don, with a supportive staff, has expanded the work of the Foundation into something unmatched in American racing.”

Clifford Goodrich,
President, Arlington Park

Many people have Murray to thank for helping straighten out their lives. Most of them realize that Murray had to overcome personal problems of his own before he could turn his attention to others.

The problem of substance abuse was the last thing on Murray's mind back in 1955 after majoring in business administration at the University of Arizona. Actually, business wasn't much on his mind, either. The 25-year-old athlete was only interested in sports. He played in the California State League for two years until he was released, then he switched to basketball. He worked for various companies and played on their teams in the American Athletic Union. That went on for five or six years until age and other complications got the better of him.

“I went into sales, which involved a lot of traveling and a lot of socializing, and that led to drinking,” explained Murray. “I realized I was developing a problem with alcohol, so I decided to get into a line of work that didn't involve as much traveling. I went to work for a company that operated hospitals offering treatment for drug and alcohol addiction. I was with them for nine years, so I learned a lot about that area.

“I was attending an AA meeting in Pasadena when I ran into an old associate, Les Martin. He explained that he was the business manager for the Winners Foundation and he mentioned the possibility of a job as program director. Little did I know at the time, but that chance meeting and everything that followed was the greatest thing that ever happened in my life.

“My opportunity to become involved with the Winners Foundation – you couldn't even imagine the good fortune that that amounts to. It's exciting to walk through the backstretch at Santa Anita or the kitchen at Hollywood Park and see people who are sober and happy because of the Winners Foundation. I certainly don't take personal credit for all of

“Don Murray was the backbone of the Winners Foundation. His wise counsel and guidance saved many a career that would otherwise have been lost to alcohol or drugs. The racing industry owes a great deal to Don.”

Joe Harper, President, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

those people, but to be part of the process has been unbelievably rewarding.”

EVERYONE WELCOME

Murray estimated the Winners Foundation helps about 200 new clients each year. Many are referred by security personnel and the stewards at the racetrack. In some cases, the workers have a problem that involves security, so they are sent to the stewards. Years ago the stewards dealt quickly and harshly with rule breakers involved with substance abuse, but more and more nowadays they are routinely referring those individuals to the Winners Foundation.

Sometimes the worker’s employer – a trainer or perhaps a supervisor in racetrack management – makes the referral. And sometimes the person just comes in on his or her own.

“Our doors are open to everyone,” said Murray. “Our clients come from all areas of the racetrack – the backside, janitorial, waiters, ushers, parking lot attendants, pari-mutuel clerks, groundkeepers, secretarial, and management. Everyone is welcome. We’re here to help, talk, or just share a pot of coffee.”

However they arrive, those requiring help first undergo an evaluation by the staff.

“If we feel someone needs a treatment program, we will send the individual to a local treatment program that we deal with,” explained Murray. “Usually this involves a stay of about 30 days. The Winners Foundation in cooperation with the California Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Foundation pays for this 30-day stay.

“When they return to the racetrack, we continue to monitor their well-being. They keep coming back to the Winners Foundation for 12-step meetings, which are held in our office. We conduct three meetings a week at each racetrack, including two in Spanish. Plus we direct them to any number of meetings in the community.

“We don’t arrest anybody. We don’t test. We’re just here to help. You figure out what a guy needs to get better. We try to tailor each recovery program to the needs of each individual. In some cases, this involves tough love. You tell them, ‘Shut up, sit down, and listen!’ You don’t say that to everyone, but you do when it’s necessary.

“Out of those 200 new clients I mentioned, last year we referred 35 to treatment programs. The other 165 we dealt with in other ways – with 12-step programs, counseling, visitations at the tracks, and keeping in regular contact with each of them,” Murray continued. “I’ve always tried to get out to the racetrack every day, walking the barn area and being

available if they need help.

“The purpose of all this is to help relieve people of the day-to-day addiction and their related problems, so they can get back to work and lead a clean and sober life. We never give up. Every time they go down, we pick them back up and bring them back in. Some people we never can do anything for, no matter how many times we try. But there are many others who we help pull through. Heaven knows where they would have been if it hadn’t been for some kind of program that enabled them to get sober and clean.”

Looking for others to credit, Murray began with the staff. He began rattling off names, “Tillie (Ramey), Alex (Trujillo), Nora (Lee)...all longtime employees who are totally committed and dedicated workers in the industry,” he explained.

Then he mentioned the Foundation directors, “each one of them active, supportive, who leave very little to be desired.”

Next he thanked the CHRB – its commissioners, executives, stewards, and investigators – and its “100 percent commitment to the Winners Foundation.”

The various industry organizations, including the California Thoroughbred Trainers and Thoroughbred Owners of California, received their nods of appreciation. Then he spoke at length about support from the racing associations.

“Oak Tree we owe from the very start,” he began. “And think about all that Joe Harper does for us down at Del Mar. Santa Anita and Hollywood Park, they’ve been unbelievable in their support. The other tracks, including the fairs, they’ve all been magnificent in the help they’ve given us through the years.

“I can’t emphasize this enough. I credit the industry itself for the success of the Winners Foundation. Every racetrack management team is fabulous in the way they’ve supported us, not only financially but with office space and cooperation. The Winners Foundation is a product of the caring and interest that people in the racing industry have for one another.”

Murray, who turns 73 in April, said he is retiring because “it’s time for a younger person to get in here – someone with new ideas and enthusiasm.”

FLETCHER TAKES OVER

Bob Fletcher fits the bill. At age 51, the new executive director said he feels like he’s 20 again, largely due to the new lease on life that he’s gained from being clean and sober for the last 12 years.

“I suffered for more than 20 years,” said Fletcher as he recounted his on-again, off-again experiences with alcohol addiction. This led to problems at work and at home that threat-

ened his marriage and nearly brought about financial ruin. But his life changed direction when he sought help from the Winners Foundation in 1991 and entered a treatment program at Arcadia Methodist Hospital in Arcadia.



BOB FLETCHER

“I’ve been coming back to this trailer almost every day since then,” he said with both pride and appreciation.

Fletcher worked as a parking attendant at racetracks from 1970 until this year. He believes that having worked more than 30 years in the horse-racing industry is an added benefit that will give him extra credibility with other workers seeking help.

“But having gone through the addiction is what really gives me the insight into other lives,” he explained. “The addiction transcends all barriers. Whether you sell insurance or dig ditches, the essence of addiction is still the same.

“Without having gone through that fire, it’s really tough to understand what’s going on inside that other person. We can certainly empathize with those who come through that door. We know what they’re feeling. We know what they’re thinking. We probably have told every lie and used every excuse ourselves, so when we hear them from others, it sounds just like us.”

Asked to describe his personality and methods, Fletcher responded, “I’m probably far more gentle and tolerant than maybe one needs to be most of the time. That doesn’t mean that I can’t be tough when I must be. Certain individuals need to be dealt with sternly, particularly after we’ve seen them more than once. There comes a time when you simply can’t hug some people anymore. But generally speaking, my bark is worse than my bite.”

Fletcher said he does not envision any major changes in the Winners Foundation under his direction. He has too much respect for Murray and the way the organization now oper-

ates to believe that he can easily institute significant improvements.

“The open-door policy remains the same,” Fletcher said. “Anyone in horse racing can walk in, sit down, and share their problems, whatever they are – addiction, marital, depression, grief of any sort. If need be, we can refer them to experts, to psychiatrists, to marriage and family counselors, or whoever else might do them some good.”

Fletcher thought over his remarks, and upon reflection he felt it was important to add one more thing. “We know there will be new challenges,” he said. “We don’t know what they are, but there will be challenges, and we will be ready for them thanks to the support of the horse-racing industry.”



Marla Lloyd, the CHRB Supervising Special Investigator 1 at Los Alamitos Race Course, received a 25-year service award from Chief Investigator Robert Nieto. Lloyd started State service in 1978 as a student assistant with the Department of Developmental Services. She transferred to the CHRB later that same year as an investigative trainee. She received several promotions and attained her current rank in 1987.

In other staff developments, Bruce Naylor, a Senior Special Investigator at Bay Meadows, retired in December after 22 years with the Board and 25 years in State service.

Georgia Folkes, the Senior Accounting Officer, transferred to the Department of Finance in November.

Articles and photographs appropriate for CHRB News & Review may be submitted to Mike Marten of the CHRB staff: 12235 Beach Blvd., Suite 7 Stanton, CA, 90680. (714) 890-7004, fax (714) 890-7006.

Please help us enforce California’s racing rules. Call (800) 805-7223 to report any violations.

and three of the fairs to start with. That northern system expanded in 1987, which was when Southern California began its own satellite wagering system. It was all in-state at dark tracks and fairs.

“It wasn’t until 1999 that we really got into the North American scene and beyond with full-card simulcasting. The growth of simulcasting has been explosive. In 1983 we had zero off-track simulcasting. Today it accounts for 70 to 80 percent of the wagering.”

MUCH MORE TO REGULATE

Reagan’s job has grown about ten times more complicated since 1983. Whereas he once was only concerned about wagers placed at Bay Meadows and the other racetracks, now he has to worry about bets made at more than 100 out-of-state locations, including off-shore sites, that work their way through the system back into host-track wagering pools. All of this brings an increasing degree of difficulty to regulating the day-to-day operations, understanding the processes, and making them work.

In addition to those “go-to” people he worked with in the early years, now he must deal with nearly double the staff in the various racetrack departments. There are people with new titles, such as simulcast coordinators.

He also has had to establish relationships with auditors in other racing jurisdictions. At any moment, Reagan might

need to call someone in, perhaps, North Dakota to say something like, “We’ve got a problem here. Can you tell me what it looks like on your end?”

And now comes Advance Deposit Wagering, which is in its first year of operation. This allows people to open accounts and wager over the telephone and Internet. Right now ADW accounts for less than 7 percent of the total money handled in California, but the number keeps growing, and Reagan’s responsibilities are increasing along with it.

Reagan has other areas of responsibility within the CHRB. He serves as the key staff person on the Pari-Mutuel Operations Committee and the Race Dates Committee.

Asked to sum up the last 20 years and his involvement with horse racing, Reagan responded, “Looking back, what attracted me on my initial visits to racetracks, in addition to the color of horse racing, was the quality of the people involved in it, and that’s still the part I like best. Maybe it’s a little bit of the celeb thing. I’m as impressed with celebrity jockeys, owners, and trainers as the next guy. But there are also class people. In addition to the good people at the Horse Racing Board, I’ve had the pleasure of knowing the likes of Cliff Goodrich, Bernice Thurman, Ted Shaine, Mike Ernst, and George Haines, to name just a few, who are truly amazing people, dedicated, and conscientious. I’ve enjoyed working with them all.”



PARI-MUTUEL SECURITY

(Continued from page 2)

breakdown of the remaining stakes distributed over the runners in the following race of the pool. After the first leg of the wager, the host track is advised of the exact number of dollars that is alive on each horse in the next race, then the next, then the next. This provides tote analysts with the information they require to thwart even the most knowledgeable insider. Had this software been in place October 26, the manipulation of the Breeders’ Cup Pick Six ticket would have been detected prior to the conclusion of the wager. Or more to the point, this security feature would have discouraged the attempt in the first place.

In a collateral effort to enhance the security of pari-mutuel operations, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association has created a National Technology Task Force to review all phases of tote operations. California is well represented on that Task Force and has participated in the ongoing efforts to improve the security of the current tote systems and to make suggestions for future enhancements.

There is another pari-mutuel matter completely unrelated

to the Pick Six that has the CHRB and the industry concerned. It involves odds changes after the race has begun. The suspicion among some bettors is that unknown individuals are placing wagers after the start and during the race. The CHRB has conducted countless reviews of late odds changes and has determined in every single instance that all wagers were legally placed before the start of the race. The problem involves the slow transmission of wagering data from some locations to the host track after the pools are closed. In other words, the bets are made, the pool is locked shut as the race commences, then the information is transferred – and this last transfer can take as long as a minute in some cases. In addition to ongoing reviews to make certain that all wagers are placed before the start of the race, the CHRB and the rest of the industry throughout the country are pressuring the tote companies to improve their communications and processing systems in order to transfer this data more quickly.



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